

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 6 are amended into independent form. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 5 and 6 include allowable subject matter. As acknowledged by the January 21 telephone interview summary, claims 5 and 6 are objected to as containing allowable subject matter by being dependent on a rejected claim. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 6 are amended into independent form. Thus, claims 5 and 6 are in allowable condition.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,478,127 to Chase. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are not anticipated by Chase. Chase does not disclose at least "integrating at least a portion of front light units of the vehicle," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action asserts on page 3, that the grille of Chase "serves to aesthetically integrate the side of the headlamps into the overall shape of the hood." This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Chase, in contrast, only discloses that the headlamps 12 are located on the lateral sides of the grille 10. See e.g., Chase, col. 5, lines 37-39. Further, the grille 10 of Chase is mounted so as to be flush with the headlamps 12. See e.g., Chase, col. 5, lines 41-44 and Fig. 1. Nowhere does Chase indicate that the grille 10 integrates the headlamps 12. Thus, the grille of Chase does not serve to integrate the side of the headlamps into the overall shape of the hood, as asserted by the Office Action.

In the instant application, by "integrating at least a portion of front light units of the vehicle," the headlamps are "housed" in the front end part. See e.g., pg. 9, lines 3-15 and Figs. 2 and 3. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the receptacles 22 are provided for receiving the headlamps in the front end part. Thus, the "aesthetical integration" mentioned by the Office Action is different from the integration as claimed.

Because Chase does not disclose at least "integrating at least a portion of front light units of the vehicle," claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Chase. Accordingly, withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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